

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11543 251226Z
ACTION NEA-10

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R 251217Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8374
INFO PRESIDENT NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIV WASH DC
COMMANDANT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE WASH DC
DIA WASH DC

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DIA FOR AH-8

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TAGS: OTRA MILI EG
SUBJECT: NWC VISIT TO EGYPT
REF: (A) AMEMBASSY CAIRO 11282 DTG 201908Z APR 78
(B) AMEMBASSY CAIRO 11283 DTG 201935Z APR 78

1. VISIT BY TWO GROUPS OF NWC STUDENTS TO EGYPT 17-22 APRIL WAS
CONSIDERED BY EMBASSY, STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS ALIKE TO HAVE
BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.

- (A) NWC 8 ARRIVED FROM JORDAN IN THE LATER AFTERNOON OF
MONDAY, 17 APRIL AND NWC 9 FROM SAUDI ARABIA ABOUT NOON OF THE 18TH.
BOTH GROUPS MET WITH AMBASSADOR EILTS P.M. TUESDAY. THIS MEETING
WAS FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE SINAI FIELD
MISSION, MR. OWEN ROBERTS. TUESDAY EVENING AMBASSADOR AND MRS EILTS
HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR 180 PEOPLE IN HONOR OF THE NWC GROUPS.

- (B) ON WEDNESDAY, 19 APRIL, THE HIGH POINT OF THE VISIT OCCURRED
WHEN THE TWO GROUPS, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR EILTS, THE DATT AND
SERVICE ATTACHES WERE FLOWN IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S PERSONAL PLANE TO
HURGHADA ON THE RED SEA FOR A 45-MINUTE SESSION WITH MINWAR GEN
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GAMASY FOLLOWED BY 75 MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. (THESE VISITS
REPORTED BY REFTELS.) ON RETURN TO EMBASSY, BRIEFS WERE PROVIDED BY
AID DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR. OLESON, AND THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, MR.
MATTOX. PYRAMID SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE EVENING.
DR. MALONE OF NWC STAFF GAVE AN EVENING LECTURE AT THE EGYPTIAN
DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE.

- (C) ON THURSDAY, 20 APRIL, BOTH GROUPS ATTENDED A PROGRAM OF LECTURES AT THE NASSER HIGHER MILITARY ACADEMY DURING WHICH ASPECTS OF THE OCTOBER WAR AND EGYPT-ISRAEL PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED. THE LAST HOUR OF THE VISIT WAS DEVOTED TO A LECTURE BY MR. FOUAD HUSSEIN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMICS, IN WHICH HE ANSWERED SEVERAL QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE GROUP. HE CANDIDLY DISCUSSED EGYPT'S ECONOMIC SITUATION, SAYING THAT THERE HAS BEEN A WARTIME ECONOMY IN EFFECT FOR 30 YEARS, THAT THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IS INEFFICIENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES HAVE BEEN BADLY NEGLECTED. FURTHERMORE A YEARLY FOOD SUBSIDY PROGRAM OF ABOUT 600 MILLION DOLLARS CREATES A GREAT STRAIN ON THE BUDGET. IN SPITE OF THE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS AND ESPECIALLY A CONTINUED BALANCE OF PAYMENT DEFICIT, HE BELIEVES SADAT'S EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING THE HOUSING AND AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND HIS OPEN DOOR POLICY FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT HAVE HAD A FAVORABLE IMPACT ON THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC SITUATION. A LECTURE AT THE DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW THE VISIT TO THE NASSER ACADEMY, BUT WAS CANCELLED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, APPARENTLY ON THE GROUNDS OF SPEAKER AVAILABILITY IN THAT TIME PERIOD.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WAS DEVOTED TO BRIEFINGS BY BGEN PFAUTZ (DATT) AND THE THREE SERVICE ATTACHES, AND ALSO A BRIEF ON THE WORK OF THE NAVY MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT IN CAIRO BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER, RAY WATTEN MC, USN.

- (D) ON FRIDAY, 21 APRIL, THE GROUPS VISITED THE SUEZ CANAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITY RESEARCH CENTER AND SECOND ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN ISMAILIA AND THEN WERE TAKEN ACROSS THE CANAL FOR A BRIEF AND TOUR OF A MAJOR TANK BATTLE AREA IN THE OCTOBER WAR.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS VISIT WAS OF GREAT VALUE TO THE NWC STUDENTS AND THAT THEY WERE TREATED WITH GREAT DEFERENCE BY ALL EGYPTIANS WITH WHOM THEY HAD CONTACT. SEVERAL STUDENTS STATED THAT THE VISIT TO EGYPT WAS THE MOST INTERESTING OF THOSE COUNTRIES VISITED BY GROUPS NWC 8 AND 9 THIS YEAR. EILTS.

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